

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer master medium provided with an uneven surface for transferring data to a slave medium, wherein said uneven ~~pattern~~ surface is formed so that ~~there are~~ no depression portions ~~therein that~~ are completely surrounded by protrusion portions.

2. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer master medium as defined in claim 1, wherein the width of the protrusion portions of the uneven ~~pattern~~ surface in ~~the~~ a direction of ~~the~~ a track pitch is formed ~~so as~~ to be narrower than ~~said~~ a track width.

3. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer master medium as defined in claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ at least one protrusion ~~portions~~ portion formed within a single track ~~are~~ is formed so that the width thereof in ~~the~~ a direction of ~~the~~ a track pitch is narrower than ~~said~~ a track width, and

~~the~~ at least one protrusion ~~portions~~ portion formed straddling two adjacent tracks ~~are~~ is formed so that the width ~~thereof~~ of the straddling protrusion portion in the direction of the track pitch is substantially equal to said track width.

4. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer master medium provided with an uneven surface for transferring data to a slave medium, wherein a rough surface is formed on the surface of ~~the~~ at least one protrusion portions portion of the uneven ~~pattern~~ surface of the magnetic transfer master medium.

5. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer master medium as defined in claim 4, further comprising:

a substrate[[,]] ;

an uneven ~~pattern~~ surface provided on ~~the~~ a surface of said substrate[[,]] ; and

a pliable magnetic layer formed on at least ~~the sections~~ one section constituting the protrusion portions of said uneven ~~pattern~~ surface,

wherein said rough surface corresponds to a rough surface formed by ~~use of~~ a surfacing process on ~~the~~ at least the sections one section of the substrate on which the pliable magnetic layer has been formed.

6. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer master medium as defined in claim 4, comprising:

a substrate[[,]] ;

an uneven ~~pattern~~ surface provided on ~~the~~ a surface of said substrate[[,]] ;

a granular material coated onto at least ~~the sections~~ one section of the surface of said uneven ~~pattern~~ surface constituting the protrusion portions of said uneven ~~pattern~~ surface[[,]] ;

and

a pliable magnetic layer formed over said granular material,

wherein said rough surface is formed according to the surface form of the protrusion portions that have been coated with said granular material.

7. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer master medium as defined in claim 4, comprising:

a substrate[[,]] ;

an uneven ~~pattern~~ surface provided on the surface of said substrate[[,]] ; and


a pliable magnetic layer formed on at least ~~the sections constituting the~~ one section of a protrusion ~~portions~~ portion of said uneven ~~pattern~~ surface,

wherein said rough surface is formed as a surface roughness, the formation of which is controlled by the formation conditions of the pliable magnetic layer.

8. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer master medium as defined in claim 4, comprising:

a substrate[[,]] ;

an uneven ~~pattern~~ surface provided on ~~the a~~ surface of said substrate[[,]] ;

 a film of porous material formed on at least ~~the section constituting the~~ one section of a
protrusion ~~portions~~ portion of said uneven ~~pattern~~ surface[[,]] ; and
a pliable magnetic layer formed on said film of porous material,
wherein said rough surface is formed according to ~~the~~ a surface form of the film of
porous material.

9. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer master medium as defined in claim 8,
wherein the film of porous material has a volume ratio in the range of 30-99%, ~~and~~
~~a surface roughness in the range of $R_p = 0.0001$ to 0.1.~~

10. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer master medium as defined in claim 4,
wherein the rough surface is an uneven ~~pattern~~ surface having depression portions of a depth in
the ~~3-50 nm~~ range of 3-50 nm.

11. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer master medium provided with an uneven
surface for transferring data to a slave medium, wherein the channels of the uneven ~~pattern are of~~
surface have a depth in the a range of 50-1000 nm ~~range immediately after the manufacture~~
~~thereof, and~~

the surface of ~~the~~ protrusion portions is ground at least once after the manufacture of the
magnetic transfer master medium ~~thereof and before said medium has been used, and then said~~
~~medium is used.~~

12. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer master medium provided with an uneven surface for transferring data to a slave medium,

wherein the channels of the uneven ~~pattern are of~~ surface have a depth in ~~the~~ a range of 50-1000 nm ~~range immediately~~ after the manufacture thereof, and


the surface of the protrusion portions is ground at least once after said medium has been used, ~~and then said medium is reused.~~

Claims 13-16 (canceled).

17. (new): A magnetic transfer master medium as defined in claim 8, wherein the film of porous material has a surface roughness in the range of $R_p = 0.0001$ to 0.1 .

18. (new): A magnetic recording medium comprising:
a magnetic transfer master medium comprising an uneven pattern formed on a face of said master medium, said master medium being operable to transfer data to a slave medium, wherein the uneven pattern comprises depression portions all of which are at least partially open to adjacent protrusion portions.

19. (new): A method of manufacturing a magnetic transfer master medium which is operable to transfer data to a slave medium, the method comprising:

modulating a data signal onto an uneven pattern of a data bearing face of the magnetic transfer master medium;
coating the data bearing face with a pliable magnetic layer on at least one section of a protrusion portion of said uneven pattern; and
creating a rough surface on the protrusion portion.

20. (new): A method as defined in claim 19, wherein the uneven pattern formed on the data bearing face is mated with the face of said slave medium such that a magnetic field is applied in a track direction of the slave medium.

21. (new): A method as defined in claim 19, wherein the data on the data bearing face of said magnetic transfer master medium is transferred to a face of said slave medium.